# 2014 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting

## Smarter Balanced Assessments

**Linda M. Hooper, Ph.D., Administrator**
**Assessment Development and Administration Division**

# Overview
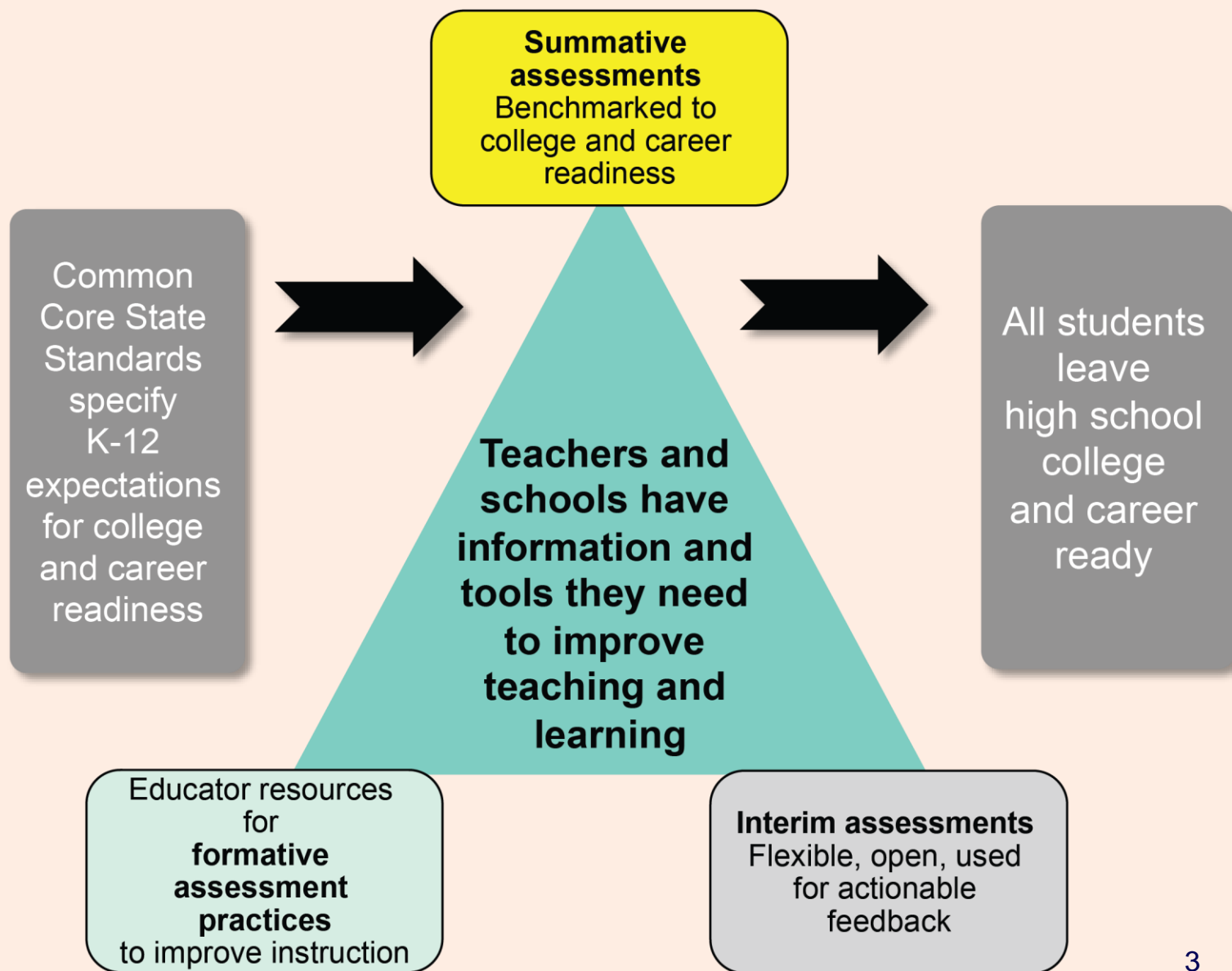
**TOM TORLAKSON**
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

- Smarter Balanced Assessments Overview

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

- Smarter Balanced Timeline

- Computer Adaptive Technology for Summative and Interim Assessments

- Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests

# A Balanced Assessment System



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State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Summative assessments** Benchmarked to college and career readiness

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

All students leave high school college and career ready

Educator resources for **formative assessment practices** to improve instruction

**Interim assessments** Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback

3

# Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

Assess students in grades three through eight and grade eleven in ELA and mathematics content areas. Each content area test will consist of:

- A computer adaptive testing component

- A performance task (PT) component

# Computer Adaptive Technology for Summative and Interim Assessments

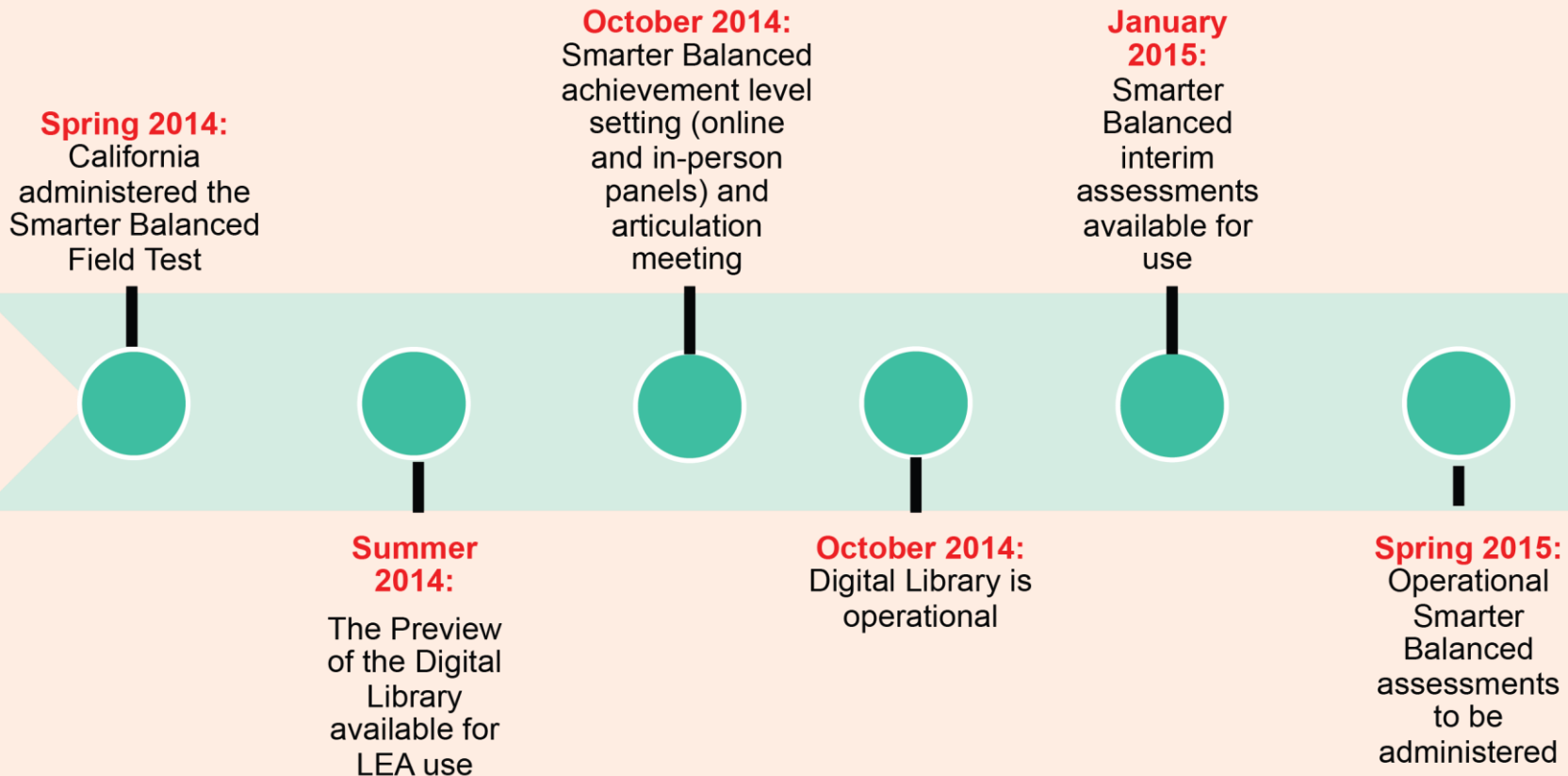| | |
|---|---|
| Faster results | Turnaround in weeks compared to months |
| Shorter test length | Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests |
| Increased precision | Provides accurate measurements of student growth over time |
| Tailored to student ability | Item difficulty based on student responses |
| Greater security | Larger item banks mean that not all students receive the same questions |
| Mature technology | GMAT, GRE, COMPASS, ACT, MAP |

# Smarter Balanced Timeline

**Spring 2014:**
California administered the Smarter Balanced Field Test

**Summer 2014:**

The Preview of the Digital Library available for LEA use

**October 2014:**
Smarter Balanced achievement level setting (online and in-person panels) and articulation meeting

**October 2014:**
Digital Library is operational

**January 2015:**
Smarter Balanced interim assessments available for use

**Spring 2015:**
Operational Smarter Balanced assessments to be administered

# Achievement Level Setting Panels for Smarter Balanced Assessments

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- This fall, educators, parents, and business/community members will participate in online and in-person panels to provide recommendations for setting achievement levels for the Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments.

  – Online panel (scheduled for October 6-17) will allow up to 250,000 K-12 educators, higher education faculty, parents, and other interested parties to participate virtually in recommending achievement levels.

  – In-person workshop (October 13–19) with panels of educators and other stakeholders working in grade-level teams will deliberate and make recommendations for the thresholds of the four achievement levels.

  – Vertical articulation committee, a subset of the in-person workshop, will then examine recommendations across all grades to consider the reasonableness of the system of cut scores.

# Smarter Balanced
# Practice Tests and Training Tests

- **Practice Tests**
  - Provide students with grade-specific testing experience similar in format and structure to the Field Test, including available supports.

- **Training Tests**
  - Allow teachers and students to experience the features, functionality, and item types in computer-based testing.
  - A training test is available for each of three grade bands (3–5, 6–8, and high school) and contains approximately 6–9 items per band, per content area.
  - Practice tests and training tests are available at http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/.

8

# Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests (cont.)

| | Training Tests | Practice Tests |
|---|---|---|
| Purpose | Provide students with an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features | Provide students with a grade-specific testing experience that is similar in structure and format to the Field Test |
| Grade Levels | 3 grade bands<br>• 3–5<br>• 6–8<br>• High school | Each grade<br>• 3–8, 11 |
| Number and Types of Items | Approximately 15 items per grade band (6 in ELA and 8 or9 in math)<br><br>No performance task | Approximately 30 items in ELA and 30 items in mathematics per grade level<br><br>Includes 1 ELA performance task and 1 mathematics performance task per grade level |
| Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations | All that are included on the Field Test are included on the Training Test | Most included<br>Refresh scheduled later in the school year |
| Scoring | Items are not scored | Items are not scored; however, answer keys and scoring rubrics are available |